

## BACK TO THE NEW JERUSALEM.

MARY AND BENJAMIN AND A FEW DISCIPLES PASS US BY.

Fake Bonneted Angels and Men With Platted Beards Here and Gone On to Michigan to Prepare for Heaven in 1906—They'll Then Have 144,000 Souls

Mary and Benjamin passed through New York yesterday, on the way to their new Christian Jerusalem, which is at Benton Harbor, Michigan. Last November Mary and Benjamin went out to Australia, in accordance with the direction of a heavenly message, which said that there were many in Australia ready to receive the light.

Mary and Benjamin are the present heads of their sect, which is called the Israelite House of David. The office of Benjamin and Mary—for they are one flesh—is that of Writer of the Star of Bethlehem, which is the Living Roll of Life. Benjamin and Mary say that they are angels, and the same; it would be hard for an unbeliever in their religious convictions to describe them at all, although one heathen who looked them over expressed the opinion that the outfit was the Long Gray Beard Club.

If ever it should come to pass that Benjamin and Mary and their followers get a light to the effect that their revelations have been in error, and that the Israelite House of David is an unexampled opportunity for dealers in mattress stuffing. They brought in more hair than has come to this port without paying duty for many a long year. They came on the North German Lloyd steamship Prinzess Irene, sailing from Mediterranean ports, having brought their followers by way of the Suez Canal, passing the antiquated and discarded Jerusalem by the way.

Mary B. "who is Herald Angel to Mary and Benjamin," sent a letter to the newspapers announcing their coming. It is dated thus:

New Creation Date.

Jerusalem, 21 day, 11 month, 23 year.

The letter tells that the "First Messenger" was endowed with power in 1792. There have been six since then. The Sixth Messenger came along in 1876. The Herald Angel's letter goes on, none too clearly, to explain that in 1802 the members of the Christian Israelite House of David knew that the hands of the clock pointed to 12, signifying "It is Time." Then did Benjamin and Mary begin to gather their flock. Messengers went out to India, Asia, Africa and Europe and brought back many to the Benton Harbor Christian Jerusalem, which was a happy place, for as far as can be learned, neither barred windows, nor shackles, nor straitjackets are there, and there is free license to think long and beaded thoughts.

The campaign of the Israelite House of David is working along a time schedule of consummate deliberation and remorselessness. It has been revealed that the Israelite House of David is to be driven into a corner in 1916, when the population of the Michigan Jerusalem will be exactly 144,000 saved souls; that the Evil One will then be bound and destroyed, and Benjamin and Mary will enter a golden chariot and precede the rest of their thousands of sanctified souls to glory.

This is a religion of the future, and the principal performers in its Yankee circus to Mars in a gilded alship and the animals and the lesser gods of the Israelite House of David are Mary's revelations.

Benjamin is good to look upon. Those who have seen certain members of the sect worshipping nightly under the beneficent blinking eyes of Herald Square have but a rudimentary idea of Benjamin's affluence in hair. It has been revealed to the faithful that the Christians who are to take the place of the Lost Tribes of Israel and go to heaven in 1916, must be of the flesh of body and unshorn of hair. Benjamin's whiskers grow out around his cherubic countenance like the rays in a stove polish advertisement.

For legal purposes he has a last name, which is Purnell, but he does not like to use it, and listens to the Federal officers who call him plain Benjamin. Mary wears several ropes of pearls around her neck; they looked real, though the Herald Angel says her exterior jewelry is all Mary and Benjamin had both disposed of all their worldly goods long ago in order to help those to whom light had come to journey to Jerusalem.

Mary has a heap of hair, too. One of them did not know she was an angel, he might just as well believe that one of the Israelite Sisters had escaped from captivity. Their followers assembled about them yesterday were a many hued gathering, of the women, young and old, and of the bonnets of woven gossamer, dyed in more colors than Joseph's coat. Some wore rich jewels. There were many little children. A few of the men had braided their whiskers to save stepping on the ends thereof. Nearly all of the pilgrims were married people, and the report of the Princess Irene's officers is that seldom has more marital affection been observed on the bosom of the tossing deep than was shown by the friends of Mary and Benjamin between Montreal and New York.

Benjamin was interviewed when he came ashore. He didn't mind. He knew lots more than the sharpest interviewer could have learned in a month. In a patronizing and weary way he tried to explain to unenlightened reporter folk how and why he knew he was an angel. There was a glint of prophetic and proselytizing fire in his eyes for a moment as he looked into his questioners' eyes and said:

"We are now in the seventh hour. The cleansing of the world is at hand and the 144,000 are about to be gathered with the angels of the Lord. Benjamin and Mary are the angels of the Lord."

But I thought you were Benjamin," said one slow witted stranger.

"Yes," replied the gentleman with the vertical aureole of whiskers, "I am Benjamin; I am the seventh messenger; the seventh angel."

"And your wife?"

"Verily, my son and brother, Mary is my wife."

"And an angel?" asked the persevering one.

"The same angel," said the gentle Benjamin, "for is it not written that we are one flesh, even as all the Church is one in the body of Christ?"

The reporters went away and watched the proceedings after that from a long way off. No violent symptoms appeared up to the time the gay caravan started out for the special train which was to take it to Jerusalem, Mich.

**\$12,000 FOR HER EYE.**

City Will Appeal From Verdict Miss Jorin Got.

A jury in the Supreme Court, before Justice MacLean, awarded yesterday to Miss Dolores Jorin, a Cuban, a verdict for \$12,000 against the city for the loss of the right of her right eye. Miss Jorin was driving in a hack, when the cab struck a hole in the pavement, the horse bolted, the cab was hurled against a pillar, and glass from the broken cab window was driven into Miss Jorin's eye. The city will appeal.

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